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POSTAL

Express Mail Service

Agreement, With Detailed Regulations, Between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and SOUTH AFRICA

Signed at Pretoria and Washington
May 25 and June 29, 1981

S 9.10:

NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SOUTH AFRICA

Postal: Express Mail Service

Agreement, with detailed regulations, signed at Pretoria and Washington May 25 and June 29, 1981;
Entered into force July 1, 1981.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Preamble

The undersigned, by virtue of the authority vested in them, have concluded the following Agreement.

Article 1 Purpose of the Agreement

This Agreement shall govern the exchange of International Express Mail between the United States of America and the Republic of South Africa, including any areas for which the postal administrations of these countries exercise International Express Mail responsibilities.

Article 2 Definitions

As used herein the following terms shall have the indicated meanings:

1. Administration - an abbreviated form used to refer to one of the postal administrations of the countries signatory to this Agreement;

2. Articles and Sections - Articles and Sections of this Agreement, except when the context indicates an article is or can be inserted into an item;

3. Convention - the Universal Postal Convention[1] adopted by the Congress of the Universal Postal Union from time to time;

[1] TIAS 5881, 7150, 8231, 9972; 16 UST 1291; 22 UST 1056; 27 UST 345; 32 UST.

4. Detailed Regulations of the Convention - the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Convention enacted by the Congress of the Universal Postal Union from time to time;

5. International Express Mail service - the service established by this Agreement, the domestic counterparts of which are Express Mail service in the United States and Priority Mail in the Republic of South Africa;

6. Scheduled service - an International Express Mail service option which allows a sender to enter into a contractual arrangement to mail items on a designated schedule to designated addressees;

7. On-demand service - an International Express Mail service option which allows a sender to mail an item on a non-contractual basis and without any requirements for scheduling or prior designation of addressee;

8. References to the regulations of either administration or to the internal legislation of either country are to the general regulations or legislation governing the matter in question which are applicable regardless of the country of origin.

Article 3 Scheduled Service

1. Each administration shall offer scheduled service on a contractual basis to customers who agree to use the service on a designated schedule to send items to designated addressees.

2. Each administration shall provide the other administration with a schedule of approximate delivery times to each city or other location to which scheduled service is available, based upon the time schedules of the international flights used to carry scheduled items.

3. For each scheduled service contract, the administration of origin shall provide the administration of destination with the following information at least ten days prior to commencing service pursuant to such contract:

(i) The identification number of the customer contract, which number shall be indicated on each item sent;

(ii) the name and address of the designated addressee;

(iii) the days of the week designated by the customer as scheduled dispatch days;

(iv) the time of day delivery is requested; and

(v) the airline and flight number to be used.

Article 4 On-Demand Service

1. Each administration may offer on-demand service which shall be available to customers on a non-scheduled basis.

2. Each administration shall provide the other administration with a list of the cities and other locations to which on-demand service is available.

3. Each administration shall provide the other administration with a schedule of approximate delivery times to each city or other location to which on-demand service is available, based upon the time schedules of the international flights used to carry on-demand items.

4. Each administration shall inform the other administration of all identification marks or numbers which it uses for each on-demand item.

5. The administration of origin is not required to provide the administration of destination with notice prior to sending an on-demand item.

Article 5 Charges to be Collected From the Sender

Each administration shall fix the charges to be collected from senders for sending items in the service.

Article 6 Charges and Fees to be Collected From the Addressee

Each administration shall be authorized to collect from the addressee the customs duty and other applicable non-postal fees, if any, payable on each item it delivers and a charge for the collection of such fees.

Article 7 Conditions of Acceptance

Provided that the contents do not come within the prohibitions listed in Article 8, each item to be admitted into the International Express Mail service shall:

(a) be packed in a manner adapted to the nature of the contents and the conditions of transport;

(b) bear the name and address of the addressee and of the sender; and

(c) satisfy the conditions of size and weight fixed by Article 9.

Article 8 Prohibitions

1. The provisions of the Convention governing prohibitions shall be applicable to the insertion of articles in International Express Mail items.

2. Each administration shall communicate to the other the necessary information concerning customs or other regulations, as well as the probitions or restrictions governing entry of postal items in its service.

Article 9 Limits of Size and Weight

1. An item of International Express Mail:

(a) shall not exceed one meter for any one dimension nor 2 meters for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length; and,

(b) shall not exceed 20 kilograms in weight.

2. The administrations may agree by exchange of correspondence to change the size limits established in Section 1.

Article 10 Treatment of Items Wrongly Accepted

1. When an item containing an article prohibited under Article 8 has been wrongly admitted to the post, the prohibited article shall be dealt with according to the legislation of the country of the administration establishing its presence.

2. When the weight or the dimensions of an item exceed the limits established under Article 9, it shall be returned to the administration of origin if the regulations of the administration of destination do not permit delivery.

3. When a wrongly admitted item is neither delivered to the addressee nor returned to origin, the administration of origin shall be informed how the item has been dealt with and of the restriction or prohibition which required such treatment.

Article 11 General Rules for Delivery and Customs Clearance

1. Each administration shall, in accordance with its regulations for the type of service used, make every effort to effect delivery of each item of International Express Mail by the fastest means available.

2. Each administration shall make every effort to expedite the customs clearance of International Express Mail items.

Article 12 Undeliverable Items

1. After every reasonable effort to deliver an item has proven unsuccessful, the item shall be held at the disposal of the addressee for the period of retention provided by the regulations of the administration of destination.

2. An item refused by the addressee shall be returned immediately to the administration of origin.

3. Each undeliverable item shall be returned to the administration of origin through the International Express Mail service.

4. Neither administration shall charge the other for the return of undeliverable items.

Article 13 Items Arriving Out of Course and to be Redirected

1. Each item arriving out of course shall be redirected to its proper destination by the most direct route used by the administration which has received the item.

2. Neither administration shall charge the other for the redirection of items arriving out of course.

Article 14 Inquiries

1. Each administration shall answer in the shortest possible time, not to exceed one month, inquiries relating to any International Express Mail item posted by the other administration.

2. Inquiries shall be accepted only within a period of four months from the date after that on which the item was posted.

3. This article does not authorize routine requests for confirmation of delivery.

Article 15 Allocation of Surface Costs for Traffic Imbalances

1. At the end of each calendar year, the administration which has received a larger quantity of International Express Mail than it has sent during that year shall have the right to collect from the other administration, as compensation, an imbalance charge for the surface handling and delivery costs it has incurred for each additional item received.

2. Each administration shall establish an imbalance charge per item which shall correspond to the costs of services.

3. Modifications of the imbalance charge may be made as follows:

(a) Each administration may increase its imbalance charge when such an increase is necessary due to an increase in the costs of services.

(b) To be applicable, any such modification of the imbalance charge must:

(i) be communicated to the other administration at least three months in advance;

(ii) remain in force for at least one year.

4. No imbalance charge shall be collected if the difference in the number of items exchanged is less than one hundred.

Article 16 Internal Air Conveyance Dues

Each administration which provides air conveyance of items within its country shall be entitled to reimbursement of internal air conveyance dues at rates established in the provisions of the Convention which govern internal air conveyance dues.

Article 17 Onward Air Conveyance

1. The administrations may agree, by exchange of correspondence, to provide onward air conveyance services under the terms of this article.

2. Each administration shall, upon agreement under Section 1 of this article, provide onward air conveyance service to or from any country with which it exchanges International Express Mail items, for items addressed to or originating in the other administration and shall provide approximate onward air conveyance times.

3. For each item forwarded pursuant to this article, the administration providing onward air conveyance services shall be authorized to collect from the other adminsitration the onward air conveyance rates applicable to airmail under the Convention.

Article 18 No Additional Rates, Charges, or Fees

The administrations may collect only the rates, charges, and fees established under this Agreement.

Article 19 Application of the Convention

The Convention or its Detailed Regulations shall be applicable, where appropriate, by analogy, in all cases not expressly governed by this Agreement or its Detailed Regulations.

Article 20 Temporary Suspension of Service

1. Should extraordinary circumstances justify it, either administration may suspend temporarily its operation of the service.

2. Notice of such suspension shall be given immediately to the other administration.

Article 21 Detailed Regulations

1. Details of implementation of this Agreement shall be governed by its Detailed Regulations.

2. The provisions of the Detailed Regulations may be amended, not inconsistently with this Agreement, by mutual consent by means of correspondence between officials of each administration who have been authorized to make such amendments.

Article 22 Arbitration

Any dispute which arises between the administrations concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement which cannot be resolved by the administrations to their mutual satisfaction, shall be settled by arbitration, following the arbitration procedures of the Universal Postal Union at the time that the dispute is submitted by an administration for arbitration. The arbitrators shall be chosen from the administrations which provide a service analogous to International Express Mail service.

Article 23 Additional Rules and Regulations

Each administration is authorized to adopt implementing rules and regulations for its internal operation of the service not inconsistent with this Agreement or its Detailed Regulations.

Article 24 Entry into Force and Duration

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date mutually agreed upon by the administrations, after it is signed by the authorized representatives of both administrations.[1]

2. This Agreement shall expire three months after either administration notifies the other in writing of termination.

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[1] July 1, 1981.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington, D.C. on the 29th day of June, 1981, and at Pretoria, South Africa on the 25th day of May, 1981.

FOR THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

H. Edgar S. Stock [1]

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL POSTAL AFFAIRS

FOR THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:

W.T.B. Ridgard

(W.T.B. RIDGARD)
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL
STAFF AND POSTS

[1] H. Edgar S. Stock.

DETAILED REGULATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The undersigned, by virtue of the authority vested in them, have drawn up the following Detailed Regulations for implementation of the International Express Mail Agreement between the United States Postal Service and the Department of Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic of South Africa.

Article 101 Information to be Supplied by the Administrations

1. Each administration shall notify the other administration of:

(a) the necessary information concerning customs or other regulations, as well as the prohibitions or restrictions governing the entry of International Express Mail items in the territory of its country and other areas for which it has International Express Mail responsibility;

(b) the provisions of its laws or regulations applicable to the conveyance of International Express Mail items;

(c) the rates and dues established under the Agreement; and,

(d) the forms, labels and other documentation which it requires in the service.

2. Any change of the information mentioned in Section 1 shall be communicated in writing immediately to the other administration.

Article 102 Address of the Sender and of the Addressee

To be admitted for mailing, each item of International Express Mail shall bear, in roman letters and arabic figures on the item itself or on a label firmly attached to it, the names and complete addresses of the sender and of the addressee.

Article 103 Items Containing Samples of Merchandise

1. Each item containing samples of merchandise shall be accompanied by a customs declaration on Universal Postal Union Form C2/CP3 or a similar form. The customs declaration shall be securely attached to each such item.

2. The contents of each such item shall be shown in detail on the customs declaration.

3. Although the administrations assume no responsibility for the accuracy of customs declarations, they shall inform senders of the correct way to complete these declarations.

4. The aggregate value of all items a sender may mail to the same person in the United States in one day shall not exceed $250.

Article 104 Packing Requirements

1. Each item shall be packed and closed in a manner befitting the weight, the shape, and the nature of the contents as well as the mode and duration of conveyance.

2. Each item shall be packed and closed so as not to present any danger if it contains articles of a kind likely to injure officials called upon to handle it, or to soil or damage other mail or postal equipment.

3. Each item shall have, on its packing or wrapping, sufficient space for service instructions and for affixing labels.

4. Each item which requires special packing shall be made up in accordance with the packing provisions in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention.

Article 105 General Makeup of Mails

1. International Express Mail dispatches shall be made up in closed mails, and shall be accompanied by the air mail delivery bill and manifest forms required by these regulations.

2. The items in each dispatch shall be enclosed in blue and orange International Express Mail bags.

3. Items containing merchandise or other dutiable articles shall be placed in separate bags from non-dutiable items, and shall be dispatched separately accompanied by a separate manifest.

4. Each bag shall bear a label, showing the blue and orange chevron which has been adopted as the International Express Mail identification symbol. Each bag label shall clearly indicate:

(a) the exchange office of destination; and

(b) whether the bag contains merchandise or other dutiable items.

Article 106 Manifests

1. An International Express Mail manifest, on a form acceptable to each administration, shall accompany each dispatch.

2. Each item sent through the scheduled service shall be listed separately on the manifest. If no items are sent under a scheduled service contract, the contract number and the fact that no items were sent shall be entered on the manifest.

3. The total number of on-demand items in a dispatch shall be entered collectively as a single manifest entry.

4. The manifest shall clearly indicate that the dispatch contains International Express Mail items.

Article 107 Air Mail Delivery Bills

1. An air mail delivery bill, on Universal Postal Union Form AV 7, shall accompany each dispatch.

2. The air mail delivery bill shall be marked so as to indicate clearly that the dispatch contains International Express Mail.

Article 108 Exchange Offices

1. The exchange of dispatches of International Express Mail shall be carried out by the designated exchange offices of each administration.

2. Each administration shall designate its International Express Mail exchange offices to be used in the service and inform the other administration of the location of each such exchange office.

3. Each administration shall give the other administration advance notice of redesignation of, or addition to its exchange offices.

Article 109 Check of International Express Mail

1. Upon receipt of an International Express Mail dispatch, the administration of destination shall check the dispatch to confirm its conformity with the air mail delivery bill.

2. The contents of each dispatch shall be checked as soon as possible, at an office designated by the administration of destination, to confirm their conformity with the manifest.

Article 110 Notification of Irregularities

1. Any evidence of missing or damaged bags or items shall be reported to the administration of origin by telex or telegraph and confirmed in writing.

2. All other actions taken in connection with any irregularity shall be governed by the regulations of the administration of destination.

Article 111 Redirection of Items Arriving Out of Course

The redirecting administration shall notify the administration of origin, by telex, telegraph, or telephone, of the details concerning the arrival and redirection of each item or bag arriving out of course.

Article 112 Return of Items to Origin

Each administration which returns an item for any reason whatsoever shall give, either written by hand or by means of a stamped impression or label on the item and on the manifest which accompanies it, the reason for non-delivery.

Article 113 Accounting, Settlement of Accounts

1. The procedures for accounting and for the settlement of accounts for internal air conveyance shall be governed by the provisions covering accounting for air mail in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention.

2. The procedures for accounting and settlement of accounts for allocation of surface costs for traffic imbalances shall be as follows:

(a) The settlement shall take place at the end of each calendar year.

(b) Each administration shall prepare quarterly a statement of items received in a mutually acceptable form which indicates the number of items received in

each dispatch based upon the particulars of the International Express Mail manifests. These forms shall be forwarded to the administration of origin within two months from the end of the quarter.

(c) After verifying the statement of items received, the origin administration shall advise the destination administration by correspondence of its acceptance. If the verification reveals any discrepancies, a corrected statement shall be returned to the destination administration duly amended and accepted. If the destination administration disputes the amendments, it shall confirm the actual data by sending photocopies of relevant International Express Mail manifests and notices of irregularities to the administration of origin. If the destination administration has received no notice of amendment within two months from the date of forwarding the quarterly statement of items received, the account shall be regarded as fully accepted.

(d) After each administration has accepted the statement of items received prepared by the other, the creditor administration shall prepare annually a detailed account and statement of charges in a mutually acceptable form which indicates the total number of items received and dispatched, the imbalance, the imbalance charge per item, and the total amount due.

(e) Accounts shall be closed within 6 months after the last day of the settlement period.

Article 114 Definitions

The definitions set forth in Article 2 of the Agreement shall be applicable to these Detailed Regulations.

Article 115 Period of Retention of Documents

1. Documents of the service shall be kept for a minimum period of eighteen months from the day following the date to which they refer.

2. A document concerning a dispute or an inquiry shall be kept until the matter has been settled. If the inquiring administration, duly informed of the result of an inquiry, allows six months to elapse from the date of the communication without raising any objections, the matter shall be regarded as settled.

Article 116 Alterations or Amendments

These Detailed Regulations may be altered or amended, not inconsistently with the Agreement, by mutual consent of the administrations by means of correspondence between officials of each administration who have been authorized to make such amendments.

Article 117 Entry into Force and Duration

1. These Detailed Regulations shall come into force on the same date as the International Express Mail Agreement to which they refer.

2. These Detailed Regulations, and any amendments thereto pursuant to Article 116, shall have the same duration as the International Express Mail Agreement to which they refer.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington, D.C. on the 29th day of June, 1981, and at Pretoria, South Africa on the 25th day of May, 1981.

FOR THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL POSTAL AFFAIRS

FOR THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:

(W.T.B. RIDGARD)
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL
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